

THE EMPIRE FAMILY

THE retiring High Commissioner of Australia, Mr S. M. Bruce, has made a suggestion which should seriously be reflected on by all peoples of the British Commonwealth. He wants to see a Council of the British Nations, similar to the Council of the United Nations, established as a symbol of our unity as one family. The British peoples have nothing to fear, he says, provided they stick closely together and are true to the great traditions and ideals that they have painted across the pages of history. It is an inspiring thought.

Within the family of people who have grown up and passed from these island shores, there are all the signs today of a well-ordered and happy family. We have diversity and yet a common loyalty secured by the fact of the British Crown, whose strength rests not on power and imperialism but on the affection and regard within a true family of free peoples.

The war years proved how strong these ties of affection were. There can be no compulsion or external authority within the British family of nations. Everything rests on the gentlest ties of sympathy and of devotion to the ideals of freedom, order, and the rights of the common man. When one member of the family is in distress then all the members rally round. Our war experiences have proved how sound was our faith in one another.

WE must preserve and develop all those links of comradeship which the war gave to the British family. Millions of men from overseas who, but for the war, might never have seen Britain have been welcomed among us. We know Australians, Canadians, South Africans, New Zealanders, and colonial peoples much better than we did—and they know us better. Some thirty thousand British girls have become the wives of Canadians and will soon be making new homes in the new world. These links are stronger than any that can be forged by authority or power ;

they are the links which bind a family of nations together, links welded by fellowship and fashioned into a chain of unswerving loyalty.

THE High Commissioner's suggestion is supported by sentiment and by fact ; and he wants this Council of the British Nations to be called at various intervals and to have regular officials to watch over its affairs and direct the attention of the world's peoples to the British ideal.

We have sometimes failed in the past because we have not been active enough in presenting the faith which animates the British peoples both to ourselves and to those who sometimes question its foundation and sincerity. The British peoples stand for some qualities in this world too precious to be allowed to go by default. Above all, those who are members of the family must know how the family has grown and why it continues its way of life and believes that it has much to offer to the whole world family.

A COUNCIL of the British Nations could do much amidst the tensions and distractions of our time to focus attention on at least one orderly family of nations which has learned the secret of sinking differences without violence ; of working together without compulsion ; of being loyal without sacrificing freedom.

These are rare and precious achievements in a world torn by extremes and faced with violent clashes of fiercely-held opinions. The British family, which lives the life of mutual tolerance, respect, forbearance, and affection, can offer a unique contribution to the life of civilised men throughout the world as well as strengthen its own fabric of everyday living. Now is the time to exalt the British way of life, not to secure admiration, but to offer an example of what may be accomplished by co-operation within one family of nations.

DROWNED VILLAGES OF DERBYSHIRE

A MIGHTY engineering task, begun ten years ago and carried on despite all the difficulties caused by the war, has at last been completed. The Ladybower Reservoir in the Upper Derwent Valley in Derbyshire has been opened by the King.

This new reservoir, which is one of three constructed to meet the water needs of Derby, Sheffield, Nottingham, Leicester, and other smaller places, has a total area of 504 acres and a peak capacity of 6300 million gallons. Deep below its waters lie two charming villages that once were home to several good Derbyshire folk—Ashopton and Derwent Woodlands.

Chapel and inn, farm and

cluster of cottages, vanished when the waters rose over the hamlet of Ashopton. At Derwent the lovely 17th-century Hall was submerged and only the church steeple is visible to mark the site of the village.

At Derwent, too, was a charming old packhorse bridge, but this was taken down stone by stone, and one day will be raised again by the Council for the Preservation of Rural England across the River Derwent at Slippery Stones. There it will stand for all time, it is hoped, as a fitting memorial to John Derry, a great friend of the C.N. and a man whose writings about the Derbyshire Moors did so much to make them better known.

The Show Went On

A friend of the C.N. tells us this story from the Burma front.

Some time ago two Ensa performers, man and wife, who gave songs at the piano to camps in the deepest jungle, were travelling in a jeep up a steep escarpment when their piano tumbled off.

Though carefully crated, the instrument might well have been damaged. So, when they reached their camp, the performers sought out the commanding

general and asked if he could find in his division any man who might be able to mend and tune a damaged piano.

So he sent out an S.O.S., and, lo and behold, two men came forward who were both from one of the best-known piano firms in London!

They fell upon that piano "with hoots of joy," delighted to be back in their civilian job, and had it in perfect condition in time for the first performance.

Skyscraper Trouble

THE most enthusiastic office boy who ever whistled gaily as he hurried to work on a Monday would be daunted at the thought of climbing 1860 steps to reach his office. Yet this was the prospect which faced thousands of workers when many of New York's liftmen went on strike.

Ordinarily, getting to work in these gigantic buildings is a perfectly simple matter. In the tallest of them, for example, the Empire State Building, which is 1248 feet high and often hides its head in the clouds, express lifts carry the 20,000 workers up and down the 102 storeys at 1000 feet a minute. But with these lifts not working there is no means of ascent except by the 1860 steps, up seemingly endless flights of staircases.

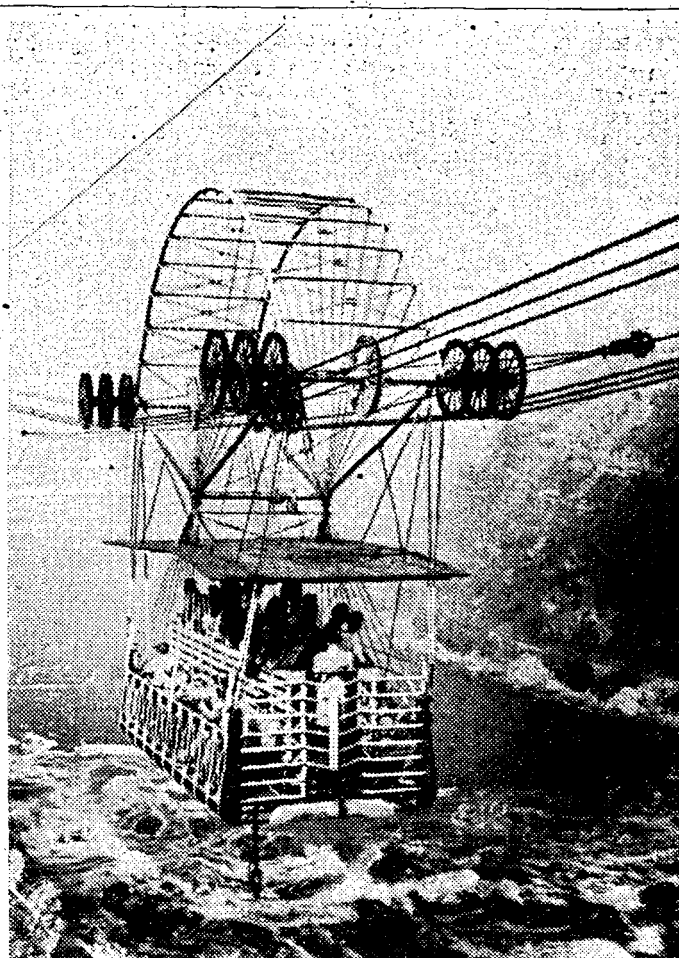
No one could blame the office boy who pointed out that he was an office boy and not a mountaineer, and preferred to remain below with his head in the air. Yet a few workers attempted the climb, two men reaching the 46th floor by mid-day, and two typists, who took off their shoes, reaching the 45th floor. Most of the workers, however, waited in the street till their employers sent them home.

CHILDREN'S NEWSPAPER

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Over Niagara

These visitors to Niagara Falls are thrilled by the dizzy trip in the cable car above the whirlpool and the rapids.

PACIFIC ISLANDERS SHOW THE WAY

WHAT book would you most like to have with you if you were adrift on a raft on the open sea?

Harold Gatty, the Australian navigator of the first flight round the world, in 1931, has produced something for just such an occasion. Although called the Raft Book, it is really a box, holding a star chart and tables as well as a book. Provided the shipwrecked seaman has his watch set to Greenwich Time, and remembers to keep it wound up, he can find his position by the chart and tables, and set his course home by the stars.

Not all shipwrecked sailors are lucky enough to have Greenwich Time with them. For those without it, Harold Gatty gives instruction learned from the people of the South Sea Islands, who use no watches in their seafaring, either.

In the distant past ancestors of the modern Islanders sailed thousands of miles over the Pacific Ocean in their long canoes, to settle in the islands of their choice. Their descendants today—many of them citizens of the British Empire—have the same skill at boat-building and navigation. During the campaign against the Japanese in the British Solomon

Islands, for example, the island inhabitants won the gratitude of British and Allied troops for their skill in taking their canoes on rescue missions through Japanese-controlled waters. To such people the flight of sea birds, the lie of the wind and current, the clouds, and the very colour and temperature of the water are signs by which to take their course.

The Raft Book has borrowed much from their sea-lore to help its readers, and the South Sea Islanders must be proud of this tribute paid to their skill.

Pied Piper Club

As a reward for their war years of dullness and danger, children of the little village of Smarden, in Kent, one of the worst-bombed villages in England, have been given a Pied Piper Club by local residents.

The club is free for all children of the village, up to school-leaving age, and it is for constructive recreation, from boxing, fencing, swimming, dancing, and dressmaking, to engineering, electrical engineering, designing, and illustrating. Books and games are there for those who prefer them, and an annual week's holiday is planned.

A FAIR START FOR THE CHILDREN'S CHARTER

At a press conference the other day Miss Ellen Wilkinson, Minister of Education, made a most important statement on the Government's educational policy. The CN has not ceased to urge the importance of getting the new Education Act of 1944, the "Children's Charter," into rapid and efficient operation, and it was with this task that the new Minister dealt.

In the conference room at the Ministry of Education Miss Wilkinson, a small, purposeful figure in a black costume, spoke with great earnestness of the Government's determination to make the bringing into force of the new Act one of their most important post-war tasks—"a first priority," she called it.

There are, however, large obstacles to be overcome before the great educational reform, passed by the Coalition Government, can be established in the schools of England and Wales. There is a shortage of teachers, many schools have been blitzed, and the urgent necessity of building dwelling-houses must naturally compete with that of building schools.

Miss Wilkinson spoke particularly of the raising of the school-leaving age to 15 and the fixing of a date when this is to come into effect. The raising of the school-leaving age will mean that 390,000 children will get an extra year's education. To deal with this increase 13,000 new teachers will be required. It is true that 20,000 teachers are expected to be demobilised from the Services, but these will be needed to replace teachers who are of retiring age—who have carried on during the war—and to replace married women.

The Government is tackling the job of providing the 13,000 new teachers by an Emergency Training Scheme under which recruits for the teaching profession will receive one year's instead of the usual two years' training. They will be men and women from the Forces as a rule, people between the ages of 25 and 30, and already there are plenty of applicants who are often beginning their studies while awaiting demobilisation. Although they will have only half the usual training period, they are, Miss Wilkinson emphasised, very

fine men and women who have the advantage of a big background of experience of life under arduous wartime conditions.

The recruits will receive their year's training in new colleges, and the Government is confident that 20 of these will be established by next January and another 20 during the year. The colleges will be in all sorts of buildings from noblemen's castles to groups of huts.

However, it is obviously no use training more teachers unless there is to be extra school accommodation for the increase in our school population of 390,000 young people when the leaving age is raised to 15. This problem the Government is solving—temporarily—by providing huts to be built close to existing schools. Miss Wilkinson pointed out most emphatically that this is only a temporary expedient to meet the immediate urgency of raising the school-leaving age.

The new huts will be attractive, roomy buildings each designed to hold two classes. The cost of providing them will be about £6,500,000, of which local education authorities will pay eight per cent every year until they no longer require the huts, having acquired proper school buildings. For these huts are not to be permanent fixtures in our school system, but will be replaced by a more enduring type of building as soon as possible.

That, then, is the plan, and as a result of it the school-leaving age will be raised to 15 on April 1, 1947.

Most of us had hoped, with Mr Butler, who sponsored the famous Act, that an earlier date would have proved possible, but the difficulties of the post-war period have proved insurmountable.

Greater Unity in Industry

THERE has been an important development in the cotton trade, which is one of Britain's most vital industries.

The plan of Sir Stafford Cripps, President of the Board of Trade, for running this industry through a working group composed of representatives of the Government, the industry, and the trade unions was opposed at first by the Federation of Master Cotton Spinners' Associations. Following a meeting between Sir Stafford and members of the Federation, the Federation now promises to support the plan.

One of the Federation's fears before the meeting took place was that the "working party" plan would mean the abolition of the Cotton Board. This will not be so.

The Federation have repudiated emphatically the suggestion that management in the industry has been inefficient.

It seems that the general

machinery is now set for a big boom in the cotton trade. What remains to be done is the release of enough labour to meet the industry's needs, and the clearing, if possible, of certain barriers like quotas and exchange restrictions. These are matters for the Government.

Sir Stafford Cripps' "working party" plan is being discussed also with the hosiery, pottery, and furniture trades.

ACORNS FOR PIGS

ACORNS are required to help to feed pigs and poultry, and the Ministry of Agriculture asks for organised parties to gather supplies. Farmers and pig and poultry keepers may be very glad to buy the acorns and party leaders must be sure that a market is available before gathering them. Trespassing must, of course, be avoided.

The price paid for the acorns by farmers varies between 5s and 7s 6d a hundredweight.

Britain's Friend in Need

THE British War Relief Society of America has now officially ceased its generous work. During the war Americans, through this Society, contributed £10,000,000 to relieve suffering here. The Chairman of its London Committee, Mr de N. Cruger, states in a booklet describing its activities: "We shall soon say good-bye . . . but with a sense of high privilege that we were able to take our part in Britain's finest hour."

The Society, from its beginning in November, 1939, concentrated on helping children. About 15,000 children every year have been cared for in its homes and clinics. In 1940 the Society established and maintained here eight residential nurseries for children under five at a cost of £40,000 a year. £85,000 was given to our blitzed towns at the time of the heavy raids, and £800,000 to seamen. Beyond this there were many gifts of clothing, sweets and toys for children, and mobile canteens.

In a letter published in the booklet Mr Churchill writes that we shall never forget the work of the Society's two million voluntary workers and the hundreds of thousands of U.S. citizens whose efforts and generosity made it possible.

MEDICINE FROM MUSHROOMS

A NEW drug made from a kind of mushroom called *clitocybe* that grows in the Alps is claimed to kill typhoid and tuberculosis germs of a type that have resisted penicillin.

The discoverer of the drug is Professor Charles Hollande of the Faculty of Pharmacy at Montpellier. His report has been presented to the French Academy of Science.

Professor Hollande, on his Alpine rambles, noticed that the grass round the *clitocybe*, inside what the peasants call the "witch's ring," withered but did not become decomposed. He concluded that the mushroom must give off some substance that kills the microbes responsible for the decomposition of vegetable matter. He therefore prepared extracts from the mushrooms and found, so it is claimed, that they killed the Ebert bacillus of typhoid and the Koch tubercle bacillus which penicillin cannot kill.

The Nation's Purse

THE first half of the financial year ended on September 30, and as it was the period which saw the end of the war in Europe and in the Far East, the figures show an appreciable fall in our spending.

The total expenditure was £2,751,118,389, which was £193,500,000 less than in the first half of the previous year; and as the national revenue showed an increase of nearly £28,000,000 we are some £221,000,000 better off now.

Nevertheless, the nation spent nearly £1,388,000,000 more than its income, and there can be little doubt that taxation will have to remain high for some years yet, even if not so high as at present.

WORLD NEWS REEL

PAN-AMERICAN Airways are running regular flights from New York to London. The return fare is £123.

A Russian parachutist, Major Vassili Romanink, has made a record jump of 42,000 feet, dropping seven and a half miles before pulling the opening cord.

Control of industries and other assets in Spain owned by the Nazi Government has been taken over by agents of the British and American Governments.

So popular was a performance of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at Godesberg recently that large numbers of Germans were unable to gain admission.

Bela Bartok, the celebrated Hungarian composer, whose music many people found difficult to appreciate, has died in New York aged 64.

The ships of the German fleet, numbering 1200, are to be shared between Britain, Russia, and the U.S.

ITALY's first free parliament for 20 years is known as the Consulta, or Consultative Assembly.

HOME NEWS REEL

THE glass roof of Charing Cross Station, London, which was destroyed in air raids, is being repaired. About 130,000 square feet of glass will be used.

Lord Nuffield has given a further £10,000 to endow scholarships for medical students at Worcester College, Oxford.

Woolwich Arsenal is to make 6,250,000 war medals during the next two years.

Probably more than a million turkeys will be sent to Britain from overseas for Christmas.

There was a muddle on the Thames recently when four coal barges broke loose in a strong wind and collided with a pleasure steamer, which in its turn collided with a motor-launch. The barges then collided with a railway bridge and wharf before the Thames police secured them.

During the war 150 pilots of Air Transport Auxiliary lost their lives while jerrying more than 300,000 aircraft from factories for the R.A.F. and the Fleet Air Arm.

THE National Portrait Gallery has been reopened to the public.

At a recent R.A.F. Horticultural Show the challenge cup was won by Sergeant Adam Garden.

Pupils enrolling at the Luton Technical College formed into queues, and latecomers for some classes had to be refused.

YOUTH NEWS REEL

THE Chief Scout has awarded Patrol Leader Ernest Morris of the 1st Barnsley Troop a Letter of Commendation for courage during a long illness. Since he was a year old Ernest, who is 15, has had twelve operations on his nose.

For the last four years Scouts of the 2nd Reigate Troop have been picking plums as part of their war service. This year they cleared trees of 65 tons of fruit; and on V-J Day they had to stop because the railway could not handle any more that day!

The house of an old lady living at Little Harbour, Nova Scotia, was in great danger of being burnt by flames spreading from some grass she was burning. A Patrol of Lone Scouts arrived, however, and

The main safe of the Krupp armaments concern long defied the efforts of Royal Engineers to open it. After cutting through successive layers of bronze, brass, copper, and steel, they were still held up by a slab of reinforced concrete.

In the British zone of occupation in Germany civilians have been ordered to give up some of their clothing for Allied displaced persons who are badly in need of it.

The first shipload of horses provided for Poland by Unrra has reached the port of Danzig.

The Mayors of Canterbury, Folkestone, and Dover attended the recent Calais Liberation Day celebrations, and presented a silver bowl given jointly by their towns.

The Renault factories, owned by the French Government, are making experiments with jet-propelled cars.

The repatriation of 500,000 Polish civilians from the British Zone of Occupation in Germany begins this week.

Argentina has ordered from Short Brothers two civil versions of the Sunderland flying boat at a cost of £230,000.

A garden sanctuary is to be made on the site of the south aisle of the blitzed church of St Thomas, Westminster Bridge Road.

Children throwing stones at the roof of a bombed house at Plumstead, London, caused the whole upper floor to collapse. Fortunately, none of the children were buried.

An acorn planted 42 years ago in a garden at Buxted in Sussex is now an oak 40 feet high.

EARLY holly berries have led many country folk to forecast a hard winter and a white Christmas.

Recently at Wolverhampton workmen toiled for three hours to release a kitten trapped in the brake drum of a lorry.

The Miners' Welfare Association have taken over Firbeck Hall, near Rotherham, as a rehabilitation centre. It is a 16th-century mansion with 33 acres of beautiful grounds.

An increase in the speed of demobilisation will allow the release of a further 400,000 men and women by the end of this year, making a total of more than one and a half million demobilised for the whole year. By next midsummer three million will have been released.

Dr K. Fisher, headmaster of Oundle School from 1922 until last term, has died at the age of 63.

quickly extinguished the flames, which had also spread to nearby woods.

MANY new gliders, some being two-seaters, are being provided for the A.T.C., who are to launch a big gliding campaign next spring.

The Boys Brigade Cross for Heroism has been awarded to Private Wilfred Ellis, aged 14, of the 2nd Bournemouth Company, for saving a boy from drowning in the River Stour.

A new musical play, *Bow Bells*, performed by members of the Boys Brigade, recently filled a Glasgow theatre for a week. The production, scenery, dressing, and orchestra were all provided from B.B. sources and 200 boys took part.



A Jolly Danish Fishwife

Fishing has begun again off Denmark's coast, and this motherly lady, happy that her country is free once more, is preparing fish for the market. In the background are the inevitable bicycles, the Danes' favourite means of transport.

TELLING THE WORLD

PEOPLE of many lands are still ignorant of Britain's great achievements in war.

Now The Times has produced for circulation overseas a 32-page Record of British War Production. It traces Britain's mammoth effort from that momentous day when France capitulated and Britain stood alone. Facts and figures of output and employment, and about the shrinking necessities of life and the disappearance of luxuries, are given.

In a foreword, Mr Oliver Lyttelton, former Minister of Production, says that no less than seventy per cent of the munitions of war used by the armed forces of the British Commonwealth and Empire (eight and three-quarter million men in all) was produced in the United Kingdom.

It is right and just that Britain's great share in defeating the Axis Powers should be widely known, and The Times is to be congratulated upon its public-spirited enterprise.

FLIGHT OF A BABY

WENDY EARL, who is three, has the distinction of being the youngest person ever to have flown over the great Himalayan peaks, which separate India from China. She was flown from a Japanese internment camp, where she had spent the whole of her life, and arrived safe and smiling in Calcutta.

Her father is a missionary who was captured by Japanese forces and interned at Tientsin.

Home of the Loch Ness Monster

THE sale this month of 50,000 acres of land around Loch Ness recalls the story of the Loch Ness monster. It is nearly 12 years since the C.N. summed up the story, which had stirred interest all over the world, of a strange marine animal which was said to have been seen in Loch Ness, the narrow lake 22 miles long, a mile or more in breadth, and in places 780 feet deep, which with the Caledonian Canal cuts the Highlands of Scotland in two.

Over 50 people at different times stated they had seen a creature like a sea serpent, with its head on a long arched neck,

THIS KIND WORLD

FIFTY-SIX English prisoners of war, with a number of Australians, New Zealanders, and Americans, despite their own acute sufferings caused by fatigue and malnutrition whilst in the hands of the brutal Japanese, volunteered, on release, to stay behind and help with the evacuation of other prisoners from 21 enemy camps.

SCIENCE TO THE FORE

THE importance of scientific research has been recognised by the Government by a complete reorganisation of the Scientific Civil Service.

In a White Paper (Stationery Office, threepence) new grades of scientific workers and new rates of pay are announced. An experimental officer class is to be recruited, partly from boys and girls of 18-19 who have specialised in scientific subjects and partly from university graduates and persons with experience in industry and engineering. Pay will range from £150 to £800 a year, with bonus addition (at present £60 a year for men).

There is also to be a scientific officer class, recruited from highly-qualified scientific graduates, with salaries of £2250 and £2500 a year at the highest levels, and two or three posts at £3000 a year.

The Government are determined that the conditions for scientists working for the nation's benefit shall be such as to attract men and women of the highest calibre.

swim across the still waters of the lake with the humps of its serpentine body appearing behind it. Other descriptions of it varied. One man stated on the wireless that he had seen it come ashore and take a sheep.

No one, however, was able to photograph it and there was much controversy as to whether it existed. Although many of the witnesses who stated they had seen it were most reputable people, the nation was inclined to treat it as a joke. In recent years nothing more has been heard of this monster, others having filled the news columns.

FARMER JACK

JACK is a handy man on a farm as well as at sea.

This is proved by the record of sailors at Chatham, who, when the word went forth in August, 1940, that all spare land should be used for growing food, started a farm on St Mary's Island. A motor-plough was bought, chicks, ducks, geese, and turkeys were hatched out, a piggery was built and stocked, sugar-beet, sun-flowers, and buck-wheat were produced for feeding animals, and plenty of fruit and vegetables, and some flowers, were grown.

Everyone concerned worked with a will, and in five years this naval farm has made a profit of over £3000. As from 1943 half of the profits were paid to the Crown. This successful venture will be wound up at Christmas—after the remaining turkeys have been despatched for Christmas dinners—and all produce and implements will be sold. The remaining profits will be used for increasing sports facilities for sailors.

THE IDEAL MINE

THE Minister of Fuel and Power, Mr Shinwell, recently inspected Comrie Pit at Dunfermline, and later stated that this colliery, regarded as the most modern in Britain, was first-class technically, and excellent also as far as amenities were concerned. He expressed a desire to see all the pits in the country modelled on the same lines.

Comrie has been described as a miner's "Dream Pit." On their way to work, for instance, the miners pass by big green lawns with a pool in the centre. This pit cost the Fife Coal Company about three-quarters of a million pounds.

WESTWARD HO!

CANON ALEXANDER, treasurer of St Paul's Cathedral, who has raised £400,000 for its preservation, recently told a meeting of architects that the building is slowly moving westwards towards Ludgate Hill at the rate of about one inch every 100 years.

SAVING DOLLARS

THE great Panama Canal, which runs through the heart of the Americas, charges dues on all ships passing through it. British ships have paid as much as a million pounds a year in Panama Canal dues, and it has had to be paid in dollars which we can ill spare.

To save this expense, the Ministry of War Transport have given instructions for British ships to avoid the Panama Canal in future. Ships from New Zealand to Britain will travel by way of Cape Horn, and those from Australia will come via the Cape of Good Hope if they burn coal, and by way of Suez if they burn oil.

CAMPERS WANTED

THE harvest camps are to remain open until early winter, and the Ministry of Agriculture is appealing for volunteers to help to lift the potato and beet crops. More than 11,000 helpers have come forward for this month and next, but a further 15,000 are still needed. The beet crop is satisfactory and a high sugar yield is expected.

The Piano in Clover

NEVER have we had better reason for songs of thankfulness to the Dominions than for the food they are sending to our scantily-furnished larders. Here indeed is a return, after many days, of bread cast upon the waters.

We sent out the ancestors of the herds and flocks from which supplies are coming; we sent also food for their maintenance. South Africa has abundant crops, the result of many kinds of seed that Cecil Rhodes took out and distributed over wide areas, to give the land rich supplies of food-growths that it had never before known.

New Zealand drew on us not only for livestock, but for food to keep the animals alive—seeds

for turnips, grass and clover, and then British bumble bees to fertilise the clover and make it seed and so continue itself from year to year—a task which was apparently beyond the powers of the native bees.

One of the most romantic developments in stock-feeding in Australia was the result of a strange accident. A piano, sent out to Victoria from Ireland in a great wooden case, had a species of clover, wild in Ireland, as the packing material. This proved to excel a millionfold the value of the instrument it protected. For seed of the clover was sown; it germinated and multiplied, and proved a precious and permanent addition to the feeding resources of the State.

VICTORY BELLS

THE first 8000 "Victory Bells" have recently been cast in Glasgow. Already there are orders for over 100,000 of them.

These bells are embossed with portraits of Churchill, Roosevelt, and Stalin, and bear the inscription: "Cast with metal from German aircraft shot down over Britain." They are being sold at £1 each in aid of the R.A.F. Benevolent Fund, and 5000 bells a week will be manufactured as long as the demand lasts.

THE DOG-BOAT MAN

DOG-BOAT MAN was the title borne by Mr William Nixon, who has just retired after 34 years of service with the Grand Union Canal Company.

It seems a curious title, but that was Mr Nixon's official task, always entered as such on his pay-sheet. Moreover, he had a specially built dog-boat, now over 40 years old, from which he fished dead dogs and other animals out of the canal.

It was quite an important job, for our canals must be kept unpolluted, and the one at Paddington, where Mr Nixon worked, is a highly important waterway, linking various Midland cities with the Thames Docks.

Mr Nixon is 71. He was born on the canal, the son of a boatman, and, beginning work as a boy in the days before there were special schools for canal children, missed the ordinary education. But a lifetime on the canal has taught him many a useful lesson.

MEN OF ARNHEM

THE Dutch are a kindly, noble-hearted people. They are grateful, too; and not the least among the deeds which they will always remember with gratitude are those of the men of Arnheim.

There in a field lie buried 1500 men who belonged to the First Airborne Division and the Dorsets who gave their lives to set Holland free.

On the first anniversary of the first airborne landing at Arnheim, their surviving comrades gathered together to honour the memory of the fallen. At the service held on that "foreign field that is for ever England," 1500 Dutch boys and girls filed among the graves and each one laid a little bunch of flowers on a British soldier's resting-place.

The Men of Arnheim will never be forgotten.

FREE FISHING

DURING the war members of all the Services were able to fish free in the British Isles. Tackle was provided free, too, and booklets were distributed telling of the facilities for free fishing which existed.

Many were the men of the Forces who enjoyed the privilege, and secured enjoyment and relaxation in dangle rod and line during their periods of leave. The concession, which has now ended, may seem a small one, but it helped many to find contentment when they were far from home.



A Toy Village

These young people are admiring the model houses made by Mr Edgar Wilson of West Norwood in his spare time.



A Glider in a Wheatfield

This modern Little Boy Blue in a Surrey cornfield is far from being "under the haystack fast asleep," but he is so intent on his toy glider that it is doubtful whether he would have noticed "the sheep's in the meadow, the cow's in the corn."

HUMAN MINESWEEPERS

To the little Devon harbour of Brixham, about the time of D Day, came some young men from the Navy. They came as volunteers for a very hazardous task, one that meant always having Death as companion—to go in search of mines.

Brixham was chosen as the best spot for the training of these men, having good and varying depths of water in a sheltered position. Here was set up the H.Q. of the "P" parties, as they were called, under the wing of Commander A. R. Alston of the Royal Navy.

After courses and lectures the men were ready to begin their underwater training. An underwater museum was made, consisting of all kinds of scrap mixed up with various types of mines. Wearing a self-contained breathing-apparatus the divers went down to the museum, feeling their way and identifying objects by the sense of touch.

Areas of the sea-bed to be searched were marked by guide wires fixed to concrete sinkers six feet apart, and along these

the divers would guide themselves. Crawling on their stomachs they would hold the wire with one hand and grope for objects with the other. This method not only ensured that the area was swept but made certain that it was absolutely cleared of mines.

When the time came for these human minesweepers to go into action they had plenty of opportunities of proving their skill—and courage. The need for these specially-trained men had been shown at Bizerta, where naval divers had had the job of clearing the harbour of mines which could not be swept by the ordinary minesweeper. They were water mines having a clock-mechanism which delayed detonation for as long as 80 days! But the job was successfully accomplished. In Europe the "P" men dealt with similar problems and at Bremen a new type of mine had to be dealt with. The Germans had said they would explode on being touched. But the "P" men proved otherwise.

New Maps For Britain

As an aid to the town and country planning of Great Britain, the Ordnance Survey undertook to compile new maps, and publication of these has begun. They are claimed to be the most detailed survey of the nation's life and resources ever undertaken.

The maps are drawn to a scale of about ten miles to the inch. They show all towns, most villages, all railways, Class 1 roads and canals, how land is used, the administrative areas, topography, population density,

types of farming, where coal, iron, and other minerals are to be found, ports, electricity installations, and so on.

Though these maps are produced for Government use, they are likely to be of considerable educational value; also, they will help research workers, local councils, and other organisations.

For a long time past Ordnance maps have been the standard maps of Great Britain. The latest issue looks like outclassing even those with which we were familiar before the war.

THE EMPIRE'S FIRST WOMAN BA

THE original document of a Bachelor of Arts degree first granted to a woman in the British Empire has been given by her relatives to the Auckland University College Council in New Zealand.

This woman was the late Mrs Kate Milligan Evans, formerly Miss Edgar, who attended the Auckland College and re-

ceived her degree from the University of New Zealand in 1877. There is already a memorial door to her in the students' quarters, and it is suggested that her diploma should be framed and placed in the college. Part of the diploma is printed and part embossed on parchment, and is much more durable than those now being issued.

Napoleon and His Rabbits

RABBITS are threatening our future supplies of home-grown timber.

The British Forestry Commissioners, with 1½ million acres of land committed to their keeping, have planted some half million acres with young trees. But rabbits, which gnaw young trees to death, are said to be increasing in numbers, and an expert advises the Government to extend into winter the gassing of these pests that they carry out only in summer.

Not for the first time do rabbits thus become a matter of national, even imperial, concern. They once formed the centre of a possible problem of which not everybody knows.

When Napoleon was a prisoner in St Helena, he took up shooting and tree-planting at the same time. For sport, as well as with a view of protecting his young trees, he attempted to shoot everything he saw, even a wandering bullock.

At last Sir Hudson Lowe, governor of the island, turned loose some rabbits in order to give the captive occupation with his gun. Napoleon hated him the more for this, saying that the rabbits would destroy his newly-planted trees. Still Napoleon went on shooting, but so wildly and inaccurately as to make Lowe fear that he would accidentally kill someone. In such case, the governor asked, could Napoleon be tried and punished for manslaughter? For Napoleon still insisted that he was emperor. The problem was sent home to England for consideration by the law officers of the Crown. Happily the grim issue had never to be decided: the rabbits utterly vanished, killed by rats, which were the main scourge of the island.

A BRIGHT PROSPECT

PREPARATIONS are now being made for the biggest boom in the history of the British electrical engineering industry. Sufficient export orders and inquiries have already been received to keep the industry engaged on the production of power equipment for at least ten years at full pre-war capacity. Those firms producing lighter work will, at the present rate of orders, be able to employ half as many workers again as pre-war for about 15 years.

All types of equipment have already been ordered by India, Australia, Iraq, Burma, and Malaya. It is expected that £20,000,000 will be spent on re-equipping the oilfields and industries of the Far East and £5,000,000 will go towards electrical traction development.

It can now be revealed that British workers in this field restarted the wheels of Russian industry. Ten days before the siege of Stalingrad was raised requests were sent to London via Sweden for electrical equipment. The orders were given out by the Ministry of Supply at once, and factories in Yorkshire and Essex had to supply high and low tension equipment for central lighting and utility services. In five days drawings were prepared, and two days later production began. The task was completed in four months by 1000 workers.

The EDITOR'S TABLE

Toward the Common Goal

ONE of the greatest difficulties in the problem of feeding Europe, and of bringing some order out of chaos, is the complete dislocation of transport.

Representatives of twelve nations have agreed to establish the European Central Inland Transport Organisation. The agreement is for two years and the Organisation is to see that transport for passengers and goods is used to the best advantage. When the most urgent needs have been satisfied the new organisation, which is to hold its first conference in London this week, will begin the task of restoring to the various Governments their transport equipment now in other lands.

As Mr Noel-Baker has stated, this international agreement should help to open the road toward the common goal of the happiness of all mankind.

Getting Down to Business

MANY young people went into the Forces while too young to have been able to acquire any business or commercial experience, and a short course of basic training in business principles has been recommended for them by a committee (Sir Frank Newson-Smith, chairman) in a report to the Minister of Labour.

The committee's proposal applies to service men and women of all ranks, but they must, the committee think, have fitness in education and character to qualify for executive or administrative posts.

It would be deplorable if the nation did not (as the committee state) "gain the full contribution which this great body of young men and women can make to the accomplishment of the difficult tasks that lie ahead."

CARRY ON

Foundations of Freedom

THE English have given importance to individuals. Every man is allowed and encouraged to be what he is, and is guarded in the indulgence of his whim. By this sacredness of individuals they have in seven hundred years evolved the principles of freedom. It is the land of patriots, martyrs, sages, and bards, and if the ocean out of which it emerged should wash it away, it will be remembered as an island famous for immortal laws, for the announcements of original right which make the stone tablets of liberty.

Emerson

CONCORD

MEN's hearts ought not to be set against one another, but set with one another, and all against the evil thing only.

Carlyle

A JOB FOR

MUCH has been written, and a great deal more said, in recent years about hooliganism and what is now called "juvenile delinquency," and it is easy to form the opinion that bad behaviour among young folks is something new.

What is true, as most of us realise, is that there are always people who behave like hooligans and that in certain circumstances the craze for destruction, rudeness, and generally undesirable conduct tends to spread.

Many people have theories about the "cure." Unfortunately, very few seem to realise that teaching the hooligans is a job for Youth. This is surprising, for it has been shown, over and over again, that Youth can handle "delinquents" successfully. Lord Baden-Powell, founder of the Boy Scouts, knew this. He often advised the men who built up the Scout movement to cure "toughs" by giving them responsibility. First, of course, they must learn that there is something more in life than giving way to desires to destroy, to please one's self, and to show off.

A striking sentence occurs in a book recently written by Ernest Raymond: "Man with-

Under the E

To climb a mountain is not difficult. If someone puts you up to it.

CYCLING is the best exercise out. Certainly better than in.

A LADY novelist thinks out her books while she is ironing. A wonder they don't fall flat.

GROUND ivy prevents the growth of weeds. How do you grind it?

BUILDING costs should be coming down now. And buildings going up.

PETER WAIN KN



If gener people themse away

The Harv

How soothing is that sound of far-off wheels Under the golden sheen of the harvest-moon! In the shade-chequered road half reveals A homeward-wending group, with heart in tune To thankful merriment—father and boy, And maiden with her gleanings on her head; And the last wagon's rumble heard with joy

THE FU

My theory of life is no mere indolence theory. I have worked hard and mean to work hard on things which have a worthy end and use. What I protest against is mere asceticism, a blindness to what is really beautiful and pleasurable in life, a preference for the disagreeable as if it were in itself better than the agreeable, above

DR YOUTH

out God became something less than human." That sentence merely echoes something which has often been said: "They tore down the old ideals and put nothing in their place."

Give Youth an ideal—call it Service, or Patriotism, or by any other name, for all Good means God in the end—and hooliganism will die. And Youth itself can spread the Ideal much better than the older folks who have, too often, forgotten how it feels to be young.

AFTER DARK

THE speed limit of twenty miles an hour in built-up areas after dark has been abolished. As the days shorten, that will mean more danger on the roads after nightfall.

When school is finished for the day, children outdoors must be even more vigilant, or casualties will inevitably increase.

Teachers, parents, the police, and older children, as well as motor drivers, must see to it that the younger children are not imperilled by this change in road law. The safest way is for parents to see that children are not out alone while it is dark.

Editor's Table

PUCK A MAN claims to be a motorist of twenty years' standing. Time he got a move on.

TS TO A CERTAIN statesman is said to have a grating voice. Whatever he says you can see through it.

OW BOYS like to do things in their own way. But often get into other people's.

ous MOTORISTS may soon be able to fill up their tanks with petrol. At the moment they are full of hope.

Best Home

In the kitchen with the ending-supper spread. But while I listening stand, the sound hath ceased; And hark, from many voices lustily The harvest home, the prelude to the feast, In measured bursts is pealing loud and high; [Bright Soon all is still again beneath the Full moon, that guides me home this autumn night.

Dean Alford

ALL LIFE

all, a parting of life into this element and that, and a contempt of half the life we have to live as if it were something which hindered us from living the other half. Mind and soul and body—I would have all harmoniously develop together—neither intellectualism nor spiritualism, nor sensualism, but a broad humanity.

J. R. Green

Debasing Our Language

THAT eminent statesman and scholar, Viscount Samuel, writing in a daily newspaper recently, criticised those meaningless words and phrases which so many of us unconsciously use in speaking—and in writing too.

Such suggestions as "you see . . . you know . . . I mean . . . I mean to say." The use of "definitely" or "that's right" instead of "yes."

He points out that such phrases as "the true facts," "very unique," "grateful thanks" are mistaken, for a fact must be true, there are no degrees of uniqueness, thanks cannot fail to be grateful.

The word "infinitely," he says is overworked—"infinitely greater"—and the continual use of such words so depreciates their value that they add no weight to a statement.

We agree with Lord Samuel when he writes: "If our speech and our writing are simple, clear, expressive, racy or humorous on occasion, but without meaningless interjections, or expletives, or vulgarities—then the English language will be worthy of the position of primacy it now holds in the world."

Garden on the Roof

DR JULIAN HUXLEY has made the excellent suggestion that roof gardens should be included in the plan for rebuilding the City of London. He proposes that such gardens should cover the roof area of several buildings, and be accessible by lifts.

In the famous square mile which is the City of London it is obvious that only little, if any, ground could be allotted as green open space. Roof gardens with pleasing views would provide for the City workers a delightful means of lunch-hour escape from the turmoil of the City streets and offices.

We hope that Dr Huxley's plan will not fall on deaf ears.

No Room For Doubt

EVERY place that I have lived in was a place of Divine Love, which there set up its obliging Monuments. Every Year and Hour of my life hath been a time of Love. Every Friend and every Neighbour . . . hath, been the Messengers and instruments of Love. Every state and change of my life, notwithstanding my sin, hath opened to me Treasures and Mysteries of Love; and after such a life of Love shall I doubt whether the same God do love me? Is He the God of the Mountains and not the God of the Valleys? Did He love me in my youth and health? and doth He not love me in my Age, and Pain, and Sickness? Did He love all the Faithful better in their Life than at their Death?

Richard Baxter, born 1615

AUTUMN HERALDS

THE redbreast whistles from a garden croft, And gathering swallows twitter in the eaves.

Keats

Monarch and Undergrad

AN African monarch is to become an undergraduate at Cambridge University. He is Mutesa II, the Kabaka (ruler) of Buganda province in Uganda, and he reigns over 900,000 people in a country about the size of Eire. Although only 21, the Kabaka has ruled for six years, and in 1942 was crowned with an eight-inch-high gold crown encrusted with sapphires, opals, and other jewels, topped by a plume of white ostrich feathers.

Two years ago Uganda celebrated the jubilee of its entering the Colonial Empire as a British Protectorate. During that time the people have grown in peace and prosperity (especially from their new industry of cotton-growing), and in learning the orderly and just conduct of their own affairs. In Buganda province, for example, the Kabaka and his Lukiko (Native Council) manage the affairs of the country themselves, but still have the good advice of the British Protectorate Government.

Mutesa II has been attending Makerere College in Uganda, but since this college has not yet quite reached its goal of university status, he is finishing his college education in Britain. Here he will meet many other British Colonial students, not only from East Africa, but from West Africa and all over the world. Their expenses are often being paid through scholarships awarded by Britain, under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act, or by the government of the Colony concerned.

Britain and the Colonies together are determined that these young men and women—whether they are to be rulers, lawyers, teachers, or doctors—shall have the best kind of education possible, so that they can go back to serve their own people to the greatest advantage.

SCHOOL TWICE DAILY

SIXTY Manchester boys are regularly attending school twice daily, and only with difficulty can be induced to go home at night! These boys, pupils of the famous Manchester Cathedral Choir School, attend Manchester Central High School during the daytime for their ordinary education and devote the rest of the day to their musical training.

By becoming an evening rather than a day school, the Cathedral School is able to provide musical education for twice the number of boys that it did at the outbreak of war, when the pupils were evacuated to Little Thornton, near Blackpool. Founded twenty years ago, it may well set a lead for other similar schools throughout the country.

Each afternoon the schoolboy choristers make their way to the Cathedral, where, after tea in an attractive refectory, they study singing, sight reading, and notation. The amenities include a games-room, a gramophone, an organ for those who wish to learn to play it, and a special room for hobbies. Two of the boys are also learning bell-ringing, whilst at week-ends, when, to quote the Dean, "the Cathedral swarms with enthusiastic boys," there are cricket matches.

FRIEND OF THE PRISONERS

THIS week we honour the memory of one of the noblest of Englishwomen, Mrs Elizabeth Fry, who died a hundred years ago, on October 12, 1845, and whose ministry to prisoners was a saintly labour of love which has made her name secure for all time in the golden annals of British reform.

Elizabeth's father was John Gurney, of Norwich, a wealthy merchant and banker. He was a Quaker, but not one of the "plain" or stricter sort who would have nothing to do with music, dancing, the theatre, or other "worldly" pleasures. Betsy Gurney and her six sisters loved frivolity, and shocked the sober elders by sitting in their bright scarlet cloaks and fidgeting through the long, quiet service in the Meeting House on Sundays.

In 1798, when she was eighteen, a change came to Betsy. She was much impressed by the preaching, in Norwich, of William Savery, an American Friend, and in September of the same year she met a notable Friend, Deborah Darby, who told her, with prophetic vision, that she was to be "a light to the blind, speech to the dumb, and feet to the lame." Henceforward, though still bright and gracious as ever, she would be a "plain" Quaker.

Betsy was always direct and practical. She began her Christian service by teaching the illiterate children of the neighbourhood. Beginning with one small boy, to whom she read Bible stories on Sunday evenings at her home, her class soon grew to seventy. The family, amused and aloof, called them Betsy's Imps.

Nearly two years later, Elizabeth Gurney married Joseph Fry, a young Quaker business man. First they lived in London, then at Plashet, near Epping Forest, and there, while bringing up a large family of her own, she found time to help less fortunate people.

Her greatest work began in 1817. One cold day in January she entered the women's yard at Newgate Prison, despite the remonstrances of the turnkeys, who dared not go in alone themselves for the prisoners seemed worse than wild beasts. But the quiet, determined Quaker lady

passed through the gates into this scene of squalor and noise and wickedness, in which were tiny children with their mothers. She picked up a dirty child. Raising her hand for attention, she said: "Friends, many of you are mothers. I, too, am a mother. I am distressed for your children. Is there not something we can do for these innocent little ones? Do you want them to grow up to become real prisoners themselves? Are they to learn to be thieves, and worse?"

She had touched the women's hearts at once, won their confidence, and unlocked a door of hope. In this abode of despair she started a school for prisoners' children and young offenders. One prisoner was found who was able to act as instructor, and the governors were persuaded, reluctantly, to grant the use of a room for this "benevolent, but almost hopeless experiment." The results were amazing.

The prison authorities were impressed by the transformation in the prisoners' conduct and demeanour, and the value of Elizabeth Fry's work was recognised on every hand. She was asked to give evidence before a Committee of the House of Commons, and her advice was sought by foreign governments. Through her exertions the lot of prisoners transported to New South Wales was greatly improved, and she worked hard to provide shelter for homeless wanderers and to find employment for them. But her greatest work was concerned with prisons, and always she was urging that they should be places for reform and not merely for punishment.

Sorrows came to Elizabeth Fry in later years, yet she remained the same sweet lady whose simple goodness won the hearts of the most depraved of criminals. Her faith remained firm, and her work has endured.



THIS ENGLAND

On the Grand Union Canal at Berkhamsted, Herts

IN AN OLD KENTISH SPA

HAD some visionary in the 18th century foretold some of the improvements to Tunbridge Wells which the present-day Civic Association are proposing, the bewigged and powdered patrons of that fashionable "watering-place" might have strongly advised him to take copious draughts of the waters whose healing properties they so often sought.

For among the plans of the Tunbridge Wells Civic Association is a suggestion for a site near the station, where in future helicopter buses may land and ascend!

Tunbridge Wells is a comparatively modern town. It takes its name from the much older Kent town of Tonbridge, which lies some five miles away to the north.

There was not even a hamlet there in the days of James I when Lord North discovered the chalybeate spring and was much impressed by its medicinal quality. He is said to have been suffering from a bout of over-eating at the time, and other wealthy over-eaters of London, impressed by his report, pitched their tents on the heath near the spring while they took a course of the waters.

Houses began to appear about the middle of the 17th century, and the old names, Mount Zion, Mount Ephraim, the church of "King Charles the Martyr," show the influence of Puritan and Cavalier visitors.

The famous Pantiles, dating from Queen Anne's reign, are much the same today as they were then—with an upper walk for the nobility and gentry and a lower walk for the humble, shopkeepers and the like. The heyday of Tunbridge Wells as a fashionable resort was the second half of the 18th century, the times so humorously described by Thackeray in *The Virginians*. Then, such celebrated figures as

Dr Samuel Johnson, Sir Joshua Reynolds, David Garrick, could be seen strolling on the Pantiles, and the little world of ease and elegance was dominated by Beau Nash. Today Tunbridge Wells is a quiet residential neighbourhood less than an hour's rail journey from London.

Among other suggestions for its future attractions are: a winter garden on the site of its present unattractive Pump Room, a new repertory theatre seating 700, and an art gallery. A by-pass round the town will help to preserve the amenities of Tunbridge Wells, which, lying amid beautiful scenery, is still much visited.

HMS HERCULES XII

FOLLOWING a very ancient custom, the Admiralty are naming new warships after famous predecessors sunk during the war. The first of these is a new destroyer which is to take the name *Cossack*, and thus replace the warship that won fame by rescuing men of the Merchant Navy from the Altmare in 1940. After further adventures the *Cossack* was sunk off the island of Crete.

The next ship in this series will be the new aircraft carrier *Ark Royal*, which will be built at Birkenhead. The third will be the *Eagle*, and the fourth the *Hercules*, which was launched recently. The latter will be the 12th *Hercules*, the first having sailed in 1588.

A Princess of Ethiopia

MRS HANNAH HOLLAND, who died at Woking last month, was also known to many people in this country as Princess Asfa Yilma, the Ethiopian title which she inherited through her father, the Swiss Theophilus Waldmeier. Theophilus married Susan Bell, the daughter of an Englishman and an Abyssinian princess, and the Emperor of Abyssinia accordingly created Theophilus a prince.

Theophilus Waldmeier went to Abyssinia as a missionary, only to find that the Emperor Theodore really wanted technicians. The Emperor was a difficult man, but the Swiss missionary did his best to befriend him, and after Theodore's death in 1868 Theophilus and his wife and their first-born daughter left Abyssinia for the Lebanon, where the rest of their children were born.

Hannah never lived in Abyssinia, but, living in England at the time of the Italian invasion and of Haile Selassie's exile, she did serve the country of her ancestors devoutly at the Ethiopian Embassy, where her amazing facility in languages was of great value. She acted as hostess to the exiled Emperor, and it was in this connection particularly that she used her royal name of Princess Asfa Yilma. She also took a leading part in raising funds for the memorial hospital to her young cousin, Princess Tsahai, who died soon after returning from this country to Abyssinia.

Hannah's other country, the Lebanon, where two of her sisters lived, also bulked large in her affections. She worked for a time at the now famous Lebanon Hospital for Mental Diseases at Asfuriyeh, founded by her father, and in this country was President of the Ladies' Committee which helps the hospital.

Hannah Holland had a stately presence, and moved with ease among diplomats and Eastern potentates; but she also overflowed with loving kindness for all the unfortunate and afflicted. There was an aura of romance around her both because of her father's adventurous life and because of her descent, through her mother, from the family of Menelik the First of Ethiopia, and (traditionally) from the Queen of Sheba; but she was a personality in her own right, and will long be remembered for her unselfish service for others.

FROM INDIA IN AN IRON LUNG

A MAN has recently travelled 5000 miles in an iron lung, from Lahore in India to the Wingfield Morris Hospital in Oxford. He is Mr Christopher Gell, of the Indian Civil Service.

At Lahore he was put in the iron lung and then into a specially-adapted railway carriage. On arrival at Bombay Mr Gell was swung aboard a troopship bound for England, and on landing at Southampton was met by an ambulance specially fitted with an iron lung. Special arrangements had to be made for his transfer from ship to shore, as Mr Gell could not be out of an iron lung for more than an hour.

THE BLAZE-UP OF NEW STARS

THE New Star, Nova Tamm, which was discovered recently in the constellation of Aquila, does not appear likely to attain naked-eye visibility; for as a rule, writes the C N Astronomer, the blaze-up of these so-called New Stars takes but a few days to reach maximum brightness.

Though differing much in the degree of brilliance attained, as seen by us, they all follow a similar course, the blazing-up being much quicker than the subsequent dying-down, as might be expected from an outburst of an explosive character.

Much has been learned spectroscopically from the many Novae which have appeared in recent years. One of the most brilliant and informative is that of Aquila which appeared in 1918 and whose position is indicated on the star-map in the C N of September 29. Another which revealed some astonishing details appeared in Perseus in 1901, and is known as Nova Persei 1901.

The densely-congregated starry region of Aquila has provided other examples of stars blazing out; Dr Nils Tamm discovered two there in 1936. One, known as Nova Aquilae, 1936 (1), was discovered on September 18, but only attained 7th magnitude, and so was invisible to the naked eye. The other, known as Nova Aquilae 1936 (2), Dr Tamm discovered on October 7; this reached 5th magnitude and so was easily perceived by the naked eye. It will be seen that Dr Nils Tamm is an expert in finding Novae.

The Galactic Ring

These fainter Novae are much more numerous than the brilliant examples, chiefly because they are so much farther away and at distances of many thousands of light-years. As many as from 10 to 20 may be discovered throughout the Universe in the course of a year. Thus it will be seen that unless Nova Tamm (Nova Aquilae 1945) attains considerable apparent brilliance, its appearance is not a very unusual event in astronomy. Nearly all these Novae appear in the great Galactic Ring which encircles our Heavens and which is popularly known as the Milky Way.

Winning the V C Twice

CAPTAIN CHARLES HAZLITT UPHAM of New Zealand is the only man to win the Victoria Cross twice in the Second World War, the recent award of the bar to his V C being only the third since the decoration was instituted in 1856.

Captain Upham won his first V C in Crete in 1941. His second V C was gained in the Western Desert on July 14 and 15, 1942, and the record of his deeds that night and day in the Western Desert is a saga of supreme courage and endurance.

Although he had been shot through the elbow, and his arm was broken, he led his men to attack a strong German position of four machine-gun posts and tanks. His voice, encouraging his soldiers forward, could be heard above the noise of the battle, and he himself with hand grenades destroyed a German tank and several guns and vehicles. His men won the

important position and he stayed with them while they beat off a violent enemy counter-attack.

Then he was taken back to the regimental aid post and, after his wounds had been dressed, insisted on returning to his company, remaining with them all day under a constant hail of shells. He was again severely wounded and his courageous company was reduced to six. Unable to move, he fell into enemy hands when they attacked once more. Happily, Captain Upham survived, and he was released from a German prison camp last April. He is now back in his native land.

Extreme Brilliance

The Nova that appeared in Aquila in 1918 was the most brilliant that had been seen for centuries, but is typical of most others. It appeared brighter than any other star except Sirius, notwithstanding its great distance of 1087 light-years, whereas Sirius is only about 8½ light-years from us. This extreme brilliance of Nova Aquilae 1918 lasted for barely a couple of days, when it began to decline and the star was of only third magnitude 18 days afterwards; then it continued to die down, with occasional fluctuations of brightness, until in the course of several years it had diminished to almost its original faintness but presenting a nebulous condition.

Originally this Nova, before the outburst, appeared as a star of 11th magnitude, but in about three days the colossal outburst reached many thousands of times its original brilliance. The spectroscopic evidence indicated that an explosive shell of luminous gas of colossal magnitude and intense brilliance expanded outwards from the original star at from 1000 to 1400 miles a second.

G. F. M.

BEDTIME CORNER

As Time Goes

THE watch is ticking, ticking,
Ticking the minutes away;
And minutes make up the hour,
And hours make up the day.

The clock is striking, striking
The hours so loud and clear;
The hours make up the day,
And the days make up the year.

Looking For Trouble

TWO men who were travelling together had very different natures. One looked on the bright side, while the other was always expecting trouble.

"Suppose I lose my business," said the one, pulling a very long face, "and cannot get any work—I shall starve."

"Don't think about such things," replied the other; "make up your mind that you will work hard and see if

Heaven does not bless your efforts."

"But suppose I were to go blind!" exclaimed his miserable companion; and, to find out what it would be like, he shut his eyes and groped his way along.

Just then they came to a spot where a treasure lay in the road; and the hopeful man picked it up, but the other, with his eyes shut, did not see it.

Those who are always looking for trouble miss many good things.

EVENING PRAYER

GENTLE Shepherd, in Thy arms
Let Thy little lamb repose,
Safe and free from all alarms.
In the love the Shepherd shows
May my slumber quiet be,
Angels watching over me.

OCTOBER FUN IN THE GARDEN



LIFE ON THE EDGE OF TIBET

Here is an account of life in one of the remote places of this earth, where people go about their everyday affairs regardless of such problems as face the world that is ours.

AFTER twenty years on the edge of Tibet, Mr Walter Asboe of the Moravian Missions has arrived in Britain. He has lived in the shadow of the Himalayas, in the town of Leh on the great highway into the closed land of the lamas. Leh is the capital of Ladakh, one of the frontier districts of Kashmir State, and it is 11,500 feet above sea-level. There Mr Asboe has kept an inn for travellers tramping on the stony wastes of Western Tibet, trading in wool and carrying their merchandise to the villages in the hills. The men arrive with their small Tibetan horses loaded with goods, and sleep on the earthen floors. They cook their own meals.

The Weaving School

Another enterprise of Mr Asboe's is the weaving school. Each woman coming in from the village is given four pounds of raw wool to spin at home. When it is returned it has to be examined carefully to see that no heavy stone has been inserted to make the bale heavier.

"Then there are the warpers busy at the huge warping drum, preparing the yarn for the looms," says Mr Asboe, "and in one of the rooms of the school you may see the weavers at their sixty-inch looms, weaving

Himalayan - camp blankets. These men—all of them trained in the school—are paid so much for each blanket they produce. When this is done the blankets go to the shrinkers, who pound the blankets in a trough of running water, using their feet with powerful effect until the blankets are properly shrunk. This process completed, the blankets are hung on a line to dry. Two women then tease them over the hot ashes of a fire of leaves or manure, when the blanket obtains a fluffy finish, preparatory to being dealt with by packers, who sew them in calico for despatch by post to all parts of India."

For twenty years Mr Asboe has tramped about in these remote regions between India and Tibet. In Tibet itself, he says, there is still no modern printing press. Printing is done by cutting letters on huge blocks of wood by hand. Wood-pulp paper is often replaced by sheets of silk or skins of animals. In the monasteries perched high on the hills the lamas preserve the Buddhist scriptures on thousands of huge sheets, and if he is caught with the sheets in a wind the lama hastens to weight them down. If a great event is to take place the scripture sheets are scattered over the district; and women are often seen with packets of them tied to their backs walking over the fields where the spring seed has been sown, in order to give a blessing to the crops.

When Autumn Comes

"By the time autumn comes round," says Mr Asboe, "the fields are practically bare except for the stooks of corn piled up near the threshing-floors, where the bundles of corn are being trodden down by cattle linked together with a rope and driven round the threshing-floor. This age-long custom of threshing by following the kindly usage of 'not muzzling the ox that treadeth out the corn,' goes on in Tibet, and the primitive methods adopted suit the people admirably, for in a good climate there is no risk of spoiling the grain. Similarly, the winnowing process is the same as that practised many hundreds of years ago, when women, each with a large wood prong, threw up the chaff to let the wind blow it away while the grain by force of gravitation fell to the ground."

THE SWIMMING TANKS

YET another war secret has been revealed. It is the story of the swimming tanks which went ashore during the Normandy landings.

The inventor of the swimming tank was Mr Nicholas Straussler, Hungarian-born, but a naturalised British subject. The War Office permitted him to experiment with a light tank. He fitted to the hull of the tank a collapsible canvas screen or "boat" which completely surrounded that part of the tank above the tracks and enabled the tank to float. All that could be seen above the surface of the

Education in the Army

SOME account of the giant strides made in Army education during the war, and since, has been given by Sir Ronald Adam, Adjutant-General to the Forces.

Among the Services today, he said, there was an immense interest in things of the mind. Troops in Italy were queueing in hundreds for the opera; soldiers in Egypt, Palestine, and Persia were delving into ancient history. The ABCA, Sir Ronald went on to say, had promoted rational discussion among the troops, provided information rooms, published books, developed the drama, and taught thousands, for the first time, their responsibilities as citizens.

The Army, said Sir Ronald, had established the principle of compulsory adult education "in the King's time"; and he asked whether there was not a case in the future for adult education in the employers' time."

SHORTAGE OF VETS

IF there had been adequate opportunity and adequate educational facilities for training veterinary surgeons, and use had been made of those trained, we should not be today hearing so much about millions of gallons of milk lost, millions of pounds of meat that were never produced, or millions of pounds sterling lost from animal disease, ill-health, and lowered production.

This outspoken statement was made recently by Professor W. C. Miller, President of the National Veterinary Medical Association, and he added that, until the recommendations of the Loveday Committee (published over eighteen months ago) had been accepted by the Government and put into operation, progress in veterinary education could not take place.

A Lakeland Forest

THE National Trust are acquiring more than ten square miles of the glorious Eskdale country in Cumberland's Lakeland, to be turned into a national forest park. The new park is a beautiful expanse of crags and wooded slopes called the Hardknott estate after an ancient Roman castle there, of which the foundations have been excavated. The park is close to Scafell and Bow Fell.

It will be a wonderful preserve for ramblers, for there is no motor road through it. Camps and hostels will probably be established at the lower end of the valley.

A STATUE WITH A STORY

SOUTH AFRICA'S greatest sculptor, Anton Von Wouw, has passed on at the great age of 80. The most famous statue in the Union was his work.

Anton von Wouw went to South Africa from Holland in the closing years of the nineteenth century. Although in the early days of the Transvaal there was hardly a living to be made in the field of art, such was the faith of Von Wouw that he refused a more profitable job in Amsterdam in order to start a new career in a remote part of the world. Von Wouw soon came to the notice of the aged President, Paul Kruger, and was commissioned to make a statue of him.

It is a statue with a story. The South African War put an end to the sculptor's work, but only for a time, and he resumed it soon after the end of hostilities. Meanwhile, however, the four accompanying figures for the foot of the plinth were missing. These had been sent out of Africa to England and were lost for years. At last they were discovered, at Chatham Barracks, and General Smuts, who had fought with Kruger against the Empire of which he has long

been such a distinguished figure, asked for their return.

Back they went, and exactly 20 years ago this week, on the centenary of Kruger's birthday in 1825, the complete statue was unveiled in Pretoria. Outside the railway station the upright but implacable Oom Paul stands, wearing the top hat which his widow insisted should be fashioned into a drinking trough for birds. There he stands, a symbol of a breach long healed.

Anton von Wouw's greatest work, however, was perhaps the statue of a Voortrekker mother and children that will grace the National Monument on Voortrekker Hill, between Johannesburg and Pretoria. Eighteen feet high, and carved in the finest Italian marble, the statue was commissioned by the Union Government some years ago.

Von Wouw's passing robs South Africa of one of its most distinguished figures, and his home in Pretoria may one day become a national museum of art.

See how your Savings grow!

At end of

10TH YEAR	20/6
9TH "	19/6
8TH "	19/-
7TH "	18/6
6TH "	18/-
5TH "	17/6
4TH "	16/9
3RD "	16/3
2ND "	15/9
1ST "	15/3
PURCHASE PRICE	15/-



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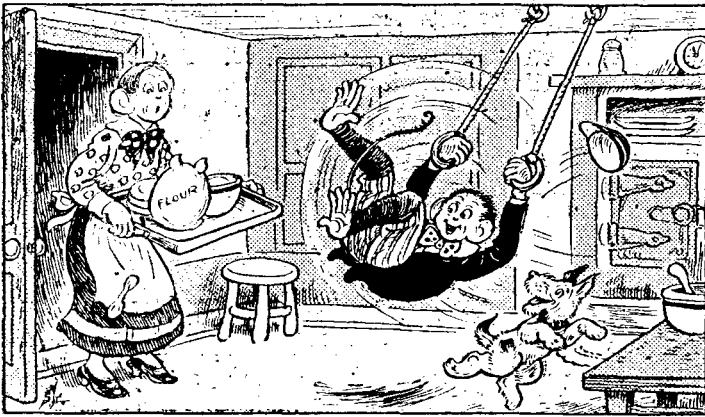


Your child must have long hours of unbroken, restful sleep if she is to grow and gain as Nature intended. When stomach upsets rob her of this needful sound rest, a small dose of *'Milk of Magnesia' will soon put the little one at ease. 'Milk of Magnesia' also acts as a gentle laxative. Mothers everywhere depend upon it because it is so mild and harmless. Keep 'Milk of Magnesia' in the medicine cabinet *always*.

'MILK OF MAGNESIA'

* 'Milk of Magnesia' is the trade mark of Phillips' preparation of magnesia.

Jacko's New Gymnasium



JACKO'S schoolmaster told him that gymnastics are a fine way to keep fit, so Jacko rigged up a pair of ropes with rings to a rafter in the kitchen. He swung and turned cartwheels to Bouncer's delight. "How do you like my new exerciser?" he shouted when Mother Jacko came in. She nearly dropped her tray in astonishment, then she exclaimed: "Just you stop those gymnastics-tricks in my kitchen!"

BETTER FORGOTTEN

"How are you today?" asked the family doctor. "And what do you think of the medicine I sent you?"

"I don't wish to think of it at all, doctor," replied little Rosemary. "I want to try to forget it."

Business Trip

"How long have you been away?" said one business friend to another as they met on the train coming home.

"Each day has cost me twice as many shillings as the number of days I have been away and two shillings a day besides—eleven-pounds in all. Now figure it out for yourself," was the reply.

Answer next week

NO CATCH HERE

IN a recent CN the problem was set of untying a knot in the middle of a piece of string. The string was fastened to the wrist of a victim at one end and tied to his shoelace at the other. Then he had to untie the knot in the string without untying either end of the string. One of our Scout readers has shown how this can be done without removing the shoe.

Loosen the knot and bring a loop upwards, pass it over the hand and beyond the string tied to the wrist. Then pass the loop between the wrist and the string tied to it, bringing the loop off the hand. By pulling on the line the knot will be untied.

Likes and Dislikes

MIKE SYKES likes hikes and Dyke Sykes likes bikes, but Mike Sykes, Dyke Sykes' tike, likes the Sykes' hikes less bikes.

Sharp's SPECIALISE IN TOFFEE-

"I specialise in Sharp's Toffee"

"IT SPEAKS FOR ITSELF"

The BRAN TUB

At the Art Exhibition

"Is this miniature here to be sold?"

Asked a patron who when he was told,

"For nine hundred—not less,"

Shouted out in distress,

"Why the frame must be made of pure gold!"

Rainy Day Ruse

THERE are hours of interest for all ages in picture-making.

Cut out of different coloured papers various small shapes—squares, oblongs, diamonds, triangles, and other odd patterns; also circles, by using small coins.

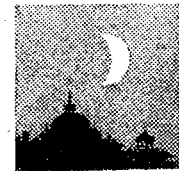
Stick each piece firmly on to thin cardboard cut to shape. If coloured paper is not available, start with thin cardboard and colour it.

With a big boxful of these patterns endless pictures can be made. Make a simple beginning with set designs and work up to pictures and scenes.

Do your own Christmas cards and calendars in this way, with thin black card as the background and giving a final touch with a little gold ink.

Other Worlds

IN the morning Venus is in the east, and Saturn and Mars are in the south-east. In the evening Mars and Saturn are low in the east. The picture shows the Moon at 6 pm on



Saturday, October 13.

Children's Hour

BBC broadcasts from Wednesday, October 10, to Tuesday, October 16.

WEDNESDAY, 5.15 The Wizard of Oz (Part 6). 5.35 The First Men of the Trees and Ching, by Richard St Barbe Baker. 5.55 Prayers. North, 5.35 Music for Two Planos; followed by What's Happening in the North.

THURSDAY, 5.15 The Old Curiosity Shop—by Dickens.

FRIDAY, 5.15 The Log of the Ark (Part 5). 5.30 Robin Hood.

SATURDAY, 5.15 The Pope's Mule—a dialogue story; followed by organ music. North, 5.15 A Nursery Sing-Song; followed by The Great Grassington Theatre.

SUNDAY, 5.15 Elizabeth Fry, a play by Morna Stuart. North, 5.15 Sister Gold—one of the plays of St Francis; followed by a Short Recital by Margery Thomas.

MONDAY, 5.15 The Adventures of Tim Rabbit (No 2); followed by Music at Random. 5.45 A Great Year for Butterflies. North, 5.15 The week's programmes; followed by Here Comes Mumble (Part 2); and a musical item.

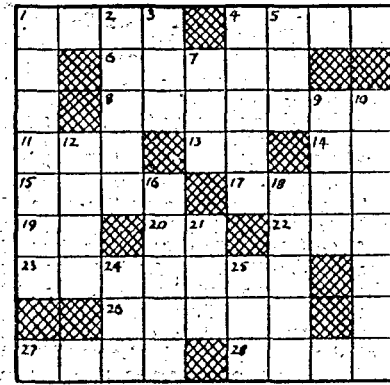
TUESDAY, 5.15 The Lonely Mouse, a story for very young listeners; followed by Songs by Sinclair Logan. 5.45 Across the Strange Sahara. North, 5.15 A Nursery Sing-Song; followed by a Matilda Mouse story by Dora Broome; and Songs by the Three Semis. Welsh, 5.15 Part 1 of a new serial play in Welsh.

Cross Word Puzzle

Reading Across. 1 Flexible water-pipe. 4 To present to view. 6 To perceive flavour. 8 Accompanies. 11 The state of equality. 13 You, as in other times. 14 A pronoun. 15 Coated with sugar. 17 To venture. 19 Channel Islands. 20 Home of Abraham. 22 Half of a baby's horse. 23 To instruct. 26 A kind of glossy silk fabric. 27 That which is used to feed fire. 28 Famous public school.

Reading Down. 1 Place of refuge for Alpine travellers. 2 To gaze in surprise. 3 To devour. 4 A horse. 5 Egg provider. 7 A pig pen. 9 Dreadful. 10 To become inclined. 12 Sour. 18 Pertaining to a duke. 18 A person entrusted with the business of another. 21 Destructive rodent. 24 To employ. 25 To fasten with string.

Asterisk indicates abbreviation. Answer next week



The Cultured Kangaroo

HAVE you heard of the Bright Kangaroo?

Her stockings were bluer than blue.

Her maths and her writing

Were truly exciting.

But her triumph was saying Twice Two.

Figure Finding

WRITE down five figures, each being an odd number, which will add up exactly to fourteen.

Answer next week

Rhyme and Reason

WHY did the tap run? Because it saw the kitchen sink. And why did the kitchen sink? Because the fire flue.

STOP PRESS

LITTLE Joan: "What's that space without any printing in it in your evening paper for, Daddy?"

Small brother, scornfully, before Daddy could reply: "Silly! That's for those who can't read."



IT is so much easier to be successful in games and in schoolwork if you are healthy, strong and vigorous. To ensure such fitness you will find it a great help to drink 'Ovaltine' every day.

This delicious food beverage is prepared from Nature's finest foods and provides the nourishment required to build up body, brain and nerves and to create abundant energy.

The special properties of 'Ovaltine' are recognised by leading trainers who make it a regular item of the training diet for players and athletes in their charge. 'Ovaltine' has also played an important part in many outstanding feats of endurance.

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